Appln No. 09/973,303
Amdt date January 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 3, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A   system   for   controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:

means for determining shelf-life limitation information for each of one or more product items;

means for recording said shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items;

means   for   reading   said   recorded   shelf-life   limitation information for a product item selected for purchase;

an   electronic   receipt   electronically   storing   the   read shelf-life limitation information for the selected product item, the   electronic   receipt   being   provided   to   a   purchaser   of   the product item;

means for retrieving the shelf-life limitation information from the electronic receipt; and

a   processor   coupled   to   the   means   for   retrieving,   the processor adding the retrieved shelf-life limitation information to an inventory list of products purchased by the purchaser, the processor   further   detecting   an   expired   product   based   on   the shelf-life   limitation   information,   and   removing   the   expired product from the inventory list.

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2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
means for storing said communicated electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items in a memory accessible by said microprocessor.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 3, further comprising:
means for formatting for an on-screen display said stored electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:
means for displaying as an on-screen display said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 5, further comprising:
means for the purchaser to interact with said onscreen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify new product items.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising:
means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify deleted product items.

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8.   (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify opened product items.

9.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 where the means for reading said recorded shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items further comprises;

means for converting said read shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to an electronically readable and storable form.

10-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period for which the product remains viable.

35. (Previously Presented) A system for controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:

a data store storing shelf-life limitation information for a product item;

a scanner scanning a product indicia associated with the product item;

a first terminal coupled to the scanner, the first terminal receiving the scanned product indicia and searching the data

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store for the associated shelf-life limitation information, the
first terminal further generating an electronic receipt
electronically storing the associated shelf-life limitation
information for the product item, the electronic receipt being
provided to a purchaser of the product item;

means for retrieving the shelf life limitation information
from the electronic receipt; and

a processor coupled to the means for retrieving, the
processor adding the retrieved shelf-life limitation information
to an inventory list of products purchased by the purchaser, the
processor further detecting an expired product based on the
shelf-life limitation information, and removing the expired
product from the inventory list.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35,
wherein the first terminal is configured to store the shelf-life
limitation information in an IC card accessible to the purchaser
of the product item.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35,
wherein the first terminal stores the shelf-life limitation
information in a store server.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35,
wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period
for which the product remains viable.

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39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic receipt is stored in an IC card.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic receipt is stored in a central server.